

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 14-30 are pending in the current application. In the Office Action dated Nov. 15, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 14-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,612,927 ("Morrison") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,587,854 ("Sato"). Further, the Examiner objected to claim 30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner noted that claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 14, 24, and 28 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the rejection in light of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. The Proposed Combination of Morrison and Sato Does Not Render the Current Independent Claims Unpatentable

Independent claims 1, 14, and 24 are directed to a magnetic disk device removable from an apparatus body. Each of the amended independent claims recites a drive unit that is locked in a case when a locking member is in a locked position and unlocked in the case when the locking member is in an unlocked position, and a connector that is operable to connect to an apparatus body when the locking member is in the locked position. Both Morrison and Sato fail to disclose at least these limitations.

The Examiner has admitted that Morrison fails to disclose a locking member and relies on Sato for disclosing a locking member. In the Office Action dated November 15, 2005, the Examiner asserted that in Sato, the locking member 4 and the storage unit are locked by locking mechanism 6 such that the driving unit is locked in the case when the locking mechanism 6 is in the locked position. Further, the Examiner asserted that when lock lever 6b is disengaged from notch 3c, the locking member and the store unit are in the unlocked position. (See Office Action dated Nov. 15, 2005, page 6). It is respectfully submitted that under the Examiner's interpretation, the connector 2 of Sato is not operable to connect to an apparatus body when the locking member is in a locked position as in the amended independent claims. In contrast, to

connect the connector 2 to an apparatus body, the lock lever 6b is disengaged from notch 3c and the connector 2 and drive unit are extended from the case as in Fig. 4a.

Therefore, due to the fact Morisson fails to disclose a locking member and the connector of Sato is not operable to connect to an apparatus body when the locking member is in a locked position, any combination of Morisson and Sato necessary cannot render the amended independent claims, or any claims that are dependent on the independent claims, unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-7 and 14-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

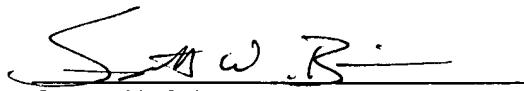
II. Objection to Claim 30

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claim 30 if rewritten in independent form.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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